Miscellaneous Provisions Act contribute 12% of their wages towards Employees Provident Fund.

(c) As per the provisions of para 72(7) of the Employees Provident Fund Scheme, EPF contributions are largely disbursed to the workers in time. However, an Information Technology enabled plan to improve the pace of settlement of subscriber's claim is under implementation.

Welfare of unorganised labourers

268. SHRI AKARAPU SUDARSHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for the welfare of unorganised labourers particularly in agriculture sector during the last three years;

(b) whether the number of unorganised labourers in different States has been compiled to determine the number of labourers in the country; and

(c) the other details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Government has taken several steps for the welfare of workers in the unorganised sector including agricultural workers. The Government has launched 'Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001' a social security scheme for the agricultural workers which is being implemented by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 identified districts in the country and envisages to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers during its first phase of three years. During the year 2001-2002, about 1.01 lakh agricultural workers have been covered under the scheme. Among various benefits available under this scheme are insurance coverage, money-back and pension after attaining the age of 60 years.

Government has formulated various schemes to provide social security and welfare measures like group insurance, medical care, education and housing

facilities for the workers in these sectors under existing Welfare Funds for beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. An expenditure of Rs. 52.65 crore, Rs. 68.16 crore and Rs. 71.60 crore has been incurred for the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively under these funds.

The Government are also implementing a number of Plan Schemes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorn Gramin Rojgar Yojana (Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Gram Smaridhi Yojana transferred from September 2001), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganised workers in the country.

A large number of existing labour laws protecting the interests of workers like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers's Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are also applicable to some categories of workers in the unorganised sector.

(b) to (c) According to the Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1999-2000, there are about 369 million unorganised workers in the country.

Increase in child labourers

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of child labourers in the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of child labourers during the last three years;

(c) what added incentives are being provided to child labourers at present; and

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